

Get in the Game! – September 2016

For the month of September our sermon series has been “Get in the Game,” with a focus on getting people to serve and give at Crosspointe. This past Sunday the focus was on following the game plan, i.e., the Great Commission in which Jesus tells us to make disciples. If you were in the service Sunday, you witnessed an amazing display of God’s direction and what comes of obedience.

Early in the service I asked for a male volunteer. One young man, 17 years old, immediately raised his hand. I paired him up with a man from our church whom I had already enlisted, a man named Roby whose primary spiritual gift is evangelism. We commissioned them to go out during the service and seek an opportunity to share the gospel. They were open to the Holy Spirit’s leading in where they went and how they pursued it. We prayed over them and I asked our folks to pray for them throughout the service.

This seems like an odd thing to do, and it may be, but I was awakened early Sunday morning with the idea, which really seemed more of a command. I decided to revisit it once I was fully awake, and then I was even more convinced it was the right thing to do. When I called the guys up and explained what they would be doing, there were a few stunned looks in the congregation, but a lot more smiles. I know the young man was surprised and nervous, but he was committed.

During the sermon our Dynamic Duo returned. As I concluded the sermon I asked them for a report. What they said was simply stunning and could be nothing other than God at work. Roby grabbed a microphone and said he didn’t know who was praying for them, but he appreciated it and their prayers were answered. Leaving the church parking lot the young man had some questions and was nervous. Roby said they would follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. Roby was going to turn left out of the church, but they turned right and ended up in the WalMart parking lot. As soon as they got out of the car Roby heard someone call his name. It was a man he had worked with in the past, but hadn’t seen in a while. The friend began asking Roby questions about church, about life, about his legacy, etc. It was a wonderful opportunity for Roby to share the gospel. This friend of Roby’s should be visiting Crosspointe this Sunday. He is seeking and God arranged for him to meet our guys last Sunday morning.

The young man then took the mic and told how they had gone into WalMart to cool off and get something to drink. They spoke to one of the Assistant Managers, told her about the church, and asked if they could pray for her. She was stunned and moved that they would pray for her. Her exact words were, “No one has ever asked to pray for me before.” She may visit Calvario soon.

A few more things: Roby wasn’t even going to come to church that morning because of back pain, but changed his mind at the last minute. The young guy volunteered without knowing what was expected, originally thought I meant they were to leave the service the following week, and was very nervous about the whole thing and unsure how to approach it.

As I read back over this I realize that words on a page (or computer screen) are inadequate to describe the sense of awe we felt last Sunday; the sense of God directly intervening in our lives and so dramatically arranging something. I’ve told several people about it this week and I’m getting goosebumps as I type this. It was incredible!

What we have now are two guys who are fired up about sharing the good news. We probably have a few more that witnessed this that are fired up, too. We may have a couple of people who will come into a relationship with Jesus. If you were in the service and experienced this, did it affect you? Did you leave with a renewed sense that God has a plan and that he is at work in our lives? If you didn't, you need to wake up. All of us need to get in the game because it's going on all around us. God wants us to participate, but His will and His plan will proceed without us. Are you a spectator or a starter?